

**Wexford: 14<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.**

It's a number of years since Wexford town was last included in the IBAL litter survey – previously a strong performer, it is great to see that this high standard hasn't slipped in the interim. Seven out of the ten sites got the top litter grade, the majority of them weren't just good with regard to litter but were very well presented and maintained. One of the best examples is the Riverwalk / Promenade - seating, tree planting, visitor information signage were in very good order and the area was further enhanced by artworks and 'pop up' eating facilities – the latter didn't impact in any negative way on the cleanliness of the site. North and South Main Street were very good with regard to litter, the former was particularly attractively paved. The provision of street bins with the opportunity to 'separate' waste (a tie in with Tidy Towns) is a great initiative, which could easily be rolled out to other sites. It was encouraging to see the provision of 'Dog Fouling' facilities along all three approach routes. There was just one poor site – Rope Walk Car Park. An air of neglect prevailed at this car park; it wasn't just littered but subject to dumping.

**Approach from direction of New Ross Road Roundabout: Grade A.** The overall impression created along this busy approach road was a very good one. Road surface, signage, markings and bicycle path were in good order and there were no visible litter issues.

**Approach from Gorey: Grade B+.** A freshly presented route, with a few separate incidents of litter, preventing the top litter grade. Care needs to be taken at the commercial premises 'To Let' on the right on the approach to Wexford – litter had gathered in a barrel.

**Approach from Rosslare direction: Grade A.** An excellent route in terms of presentation and maintenance. One area was 'Managed for Wildlife' and dog fouling notices included 'please do not throw dog waste over the wall'. The provision of dog fouling facilities should hopefully address this.

**Wexford Train Station - Exterior: Grade A.** The front of the station presented very well with abundant flower boxes and the station signage was in good order. Care needs to be taken to the side of the station, beside the electricity box, where litter items can easily accumulate behind the green railings.

**North Main Street: Grade A.** North Main Street was exceptionally clean. Attractive paving along the pedestrianised area and colourful hanging baskets looked very well. The opportunity to recycle street waste (a tie in with Tidy Towns) is a great initiative and one of the few styles of bins which allow for the separate disposal of chewing gum / cigarette butts. There was plenty of 'outdoor dining' on a sunny August afternoon – this didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation.

**South Main Street: Grade A.** South Main Street has more than its fair share of closed down / vacant / to let properties but clearly a careful eye is kept on them as there was no litter directly associated with them. The overall impression was of a thoroughly cleaned shopping street environment.

**Rope Walk Car Park: Grade D+.** (Just off South Main Street) This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Wexford. While the surface area of the car park was OK, the surrounding perimeter was in poor shape. It wasn't just littered but subject to neglect and dumping – e.g., wooden crate, stool, large furnishings etc. Weeds were pronounced and much of the loose litter had gathered at the base of the weeds. The condition of this car park will only deteriorate further if not addressed.

**Bring Facility, close to Wexford Pool: Grade B+.** A small clothing facility and bottle bank were surveyed. While not heavily littered, there were definite items which had been casually discarded beside both of these facilities, preventing the top litter grade.

**Riverwalk / Promenade: Grade A.** An extensive waterfront amenity, this was in super condition. Clearly it is a very well respected and maintained environment. Seating, visitor information notices, tree planting, dog fouling facilities etc were in excellent order and the area was further enhanced by artworks and 'pop up' eating facilities. It was excellent with regard to litter and a credit to the town.

**John Barry Memorial: Grade A.** A waterside feature which was attractively laid out – there was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.